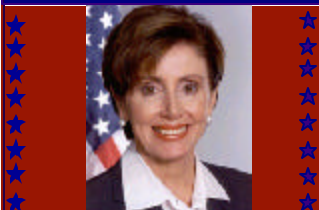




U.S. House of Representatives



Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

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The Pelosi Report

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Dear Friends:

In March, we celebrate Women's History Month. We remember those who have contributed to our progress and recognize those who are changing our communities today.

From women like Sojourner Truth, who campaigned for women's suffrage, and Fannie Lou Hamer, who wanted to exercise her right to vote without intimidation, to the 13 African American women leaders currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Black women have been raising their voices and wielding their political power and clout throughout American history.

Today, women represent more than half the population and are among the most knowledgeable and important thinkers in every field of policy, from science to education to health care to national security.

Yet in terms of policies to assist women in their struggle to lead or the struggle to achieve financial security, we are lagging behind. Half of those currently living in poverty are single mothers. More than 3.8 million women are looking for work. Women are still paid only 80 cents to a man's dollar.

I am so proud to be the first woman to lead a party in the US House of Representatives. When I was first elected to this position, we made history. Now it is time to make progress. The only way we can do that is by working together to ensure equality and prosperity for all women and men.

Sincerely

Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader

A Congressional Gold Medal for Dr. Dorothy Height

"African American Women seldom do just what we want to do, but always what we have to do. I am grateful to have been in a time and place where I could be part of what was needed."

- Dr. Dorothy Height



On Wednesday, March 24th Leader Pelosi joined other Congressional leaders, and President Bush in congratulating Dr. Dorothy Height on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal, the most distinguished award bestowed by the United States Congress. During her remarks, Leader Pelosi stated, "Today, America pays tribute to a humanitarian of profound faith in God and in her country; a patriot who has devoted her life of service to our democracy; and a pioneer who always believed that a new day of justice and freedom was possible. I would also add a woman of timeless dignity and grace."

Black Women Military Firsts

African-American women have played major support roles in conflicts dating as far back as the Revolutionary War to the present day Operation Iraqi Freedom. Here's a look at some of their contributions:

March 8, 1945, Phyllis Mae Daily, the first Black nurse was sworn into the Navy Nurse Corps.

February 12, 1948, the first Black nurse joined the Regular Army Nurse Corps.

July 1974, Reverend Alice Henderson was commissioned as the first female chaplain.

July 1974, five black women out of a group of 15 women became cadets at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

May 1975, Lieutenant Donna P. Davis became the first Black women doctor in the Naval Medical Corps.

November 1979, Second Lieutenant Marcella A. Hayes became the first Black women pilot in the U.S. armed forces.

September 1979, Hazel Winifred Johnson became the first Black woman promoted to the rank and position of Brigadier General.

In December 1980, Ensign Brenda Robinson became the first Black female aviator in the U.S. Navy assigned to the Fleet Logistics Squadron Forty in Norfolk, Virginia.

On May 18, 1983, Angela Dennis of Arkansas became one of the first two Black women to graduate from the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Bush Budget Shortchanges Women

Earlier this month, Leader Pelosi joined Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY), Democratic Co-Chair of the House Women's Caucus, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (D-OH), female firefighters, police officers and nurses, as well as other Democratic Congresswomen at a press conference to discuss the devastating effect of the Bush and House Republican budgets on women and their families. They also released a letter to President Bush comparing the President's reassuring rhetoric with the harsh reality of his budget policies.



Congresswomen Louise Slaughter (D-NY), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), and Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI).

Health - There are more than **20 million women without health insurance** and millions more who can barely afford to pay their premiums, yet the Bush budget does nothing to hold down costs.

Today, **22 million women - one in five adult women - rely on Medicare for basic health insurance protection.** The Bush budget does nothing to help seniors lower their prescription drug costs. And, Republicans are refusing to hold down drug costs, refusing to let the government negotiate discounts for seniors, and refusing to allow Americans to import less expensive drugs from Canada.

Jobs/Economy - The Bush budget squanders an additional \$1 trillion over the next 10 years on additional tax cuts for the wealthy, but President Bush's budget does nothing to create good-paying jobs here at home. The Bush budget cuts funding for the Small Business Administration, which helps women and minority owned small businesses grow, by \$79 million. **There are more than 7 million small businesses owned by women.**

Education - More than **10 percent of young women drop out of high school**, yet the President's budget eliminates funding for dropout prevention programs. The President's budget fails to provide \$9.4 billion in promised funding for education - meaning that 2.4 million children will not get the help with reading and math they were promised.

Only 19 percent of women finish their bachelors degree. Despite nationwide increases in the cost of college, the Bush Administration has frozen funding for Pell Grants and cut funding for Perkins loans by nearly \$100 million.

Child Care - The Child Care and Development Block Grant provides child care assistance for low income families and early education services to our country's most disadvantaged children. The Bush budget freezes funding for this program for the third consecutive year and cuts child care assistance by an additional 300,000 children by 2009.

Veterans - There are more than **1.6 million women veterans.** The President's budget raises health care costs for more than 500,000 veterans, imposing new co-payments and enrollment fees that will cost veterans more than \$2 billion over five years.

Democrats have different priorities. We want to help all Americans achieve financial security, invest in programs that create good paying jobs, improve education, lower health care costs, make college more affordable, help small businesses grow, support our veterans and military retirees, and do more to make our ports, borders and communities secure.



Leader Pelosi and Prince George's County, MD Fire/EMS Major Carla Blue.

Budget Watch
A Question of Priorities

Learn more about the Budget debate and House Democrats Alternative Budget at <http://www.HouseDemocrats.gov>